

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 16

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: The last time in our study of Romans we stopped in Romans 14:5. We are currently looking at a section in which Paul is concerned with unity within the body of Jesus Christ. Just as there is today, there were also differences among the people of the church in Paul's day. There were those who were convicted about eating certain things and there were others who would eat anything and everything. Those who understood their liberty in Christ knew they were free to eat all food. But those who had been saved out of pagan worship or out of a very legalistic background were convicted about eating certain foods. It was not only food that was an issue between the people, but it was also days.

Notice Romans 14:5

Here is where Paul starts to address the different views of days within the church. The Jews who were saved out of Judaism wanted to hold on to the Sabbath and others did not just view one day as holy, but they saw all seven days as holy. The Jew was still holding to the teaching of the Law and it was difficult for him to give up what he had been taught all his life before he was saved.

Application:

Today there are those that see the first day of the week as a "holy" day and even go so far as to carry some of the restrictions which pertained to the Sabbath and attach them to Sunday. They will say, "It is the Lord's Day and therefore it is holy." This is an attempt to bring believers under the Law while they are in Christ and in Christ, we are dead to the Law. There is no commandment in the New Testament that says we must keep the first day of the week as Israel was commanded to keep the Sabbath. It is true that Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week and that the early church gathered on the first day of the week. But we are only commanded to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Notice Romans 14:6

Paul explains here that both the strong and the weak believers do three things right. They have the right motive; their heart is right, and their attitude is right. If the weak believer

is careful of what he does on a certain day, he is doing it as unto the Lord. If the strong believer understands that every day is holy, and he lives his life freely, he too does what he does as unto the Lord. Both are living examples of I Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3.

I Corinthians 10:31

³¹ *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

²⁴ *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

Notice Romans 14:7-9

Here in these verses, we see something that is very important to grasp. All of us belong to the Lord and all that we do is to be done as unto the Lord. If we live, we live as unto the Lord. If we die, we die as unto the Lord. He is our Lord, and we are His slaves. But as slaves we are free to serve Him, we are not forced to serve Him. As we therefore live, we are to live our lives as unto Him because it is through His finished work on the cross that we are made free. In Ephesians we are reminded of what we once were and who we once served.

Ephesians 2:1-7

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

⁶ *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

⁷ *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Notice Romans 14:7 again.

Our lives now belong to our Lord and ALL we do is to be done to honor and glorify Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴ *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

¹⁵ *And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

The word "LORD" is used 8 times in these verses and Paul does so to make his point. I am not Lord of my own life nor are we are the Lord over the lives of others. Jesus Christ is Lord of all believers.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

This now brings us to the important question.

Notice Romans 14:10

For me to judge you or for you to judge me is for each of us to usurp the authority of God. The strong believer who understands his liberty in Christ is not to judge the weaker believer who struggles with legal tendencies. Neither is the weak brother to judge the strong who enjoys his liberty to eat all food or to live every day as unto the Lord. Let us notice what James recorded. He gives us even more to consider when it comes to judging one another. Not only does a judgmental attitude destroy the unity but it also causes the one who judges to speak evil of the Law.

James 4:11-12

¹¹ Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

¹² There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

To judge one another is a violation of God's Word. The Bible tells us we are to love one another and not speak evil of our neighbor.

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Psalm 15:1-3

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

³ He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

When we judge another person, we are then violating the law of God because we are rejecting the law of love and treating it as though it means nothing. Therefore, with our actions we are speaking evil of the law. It is like stating that God's law means nothing but only our judgment is meaningful. James reminds us that there is one law Giver, and it is not us.

Notice Romans 14:10

Paul reminds his readers about the coming judgment. Every believer will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. We have considered this before, but it is good to be reminded again. At the judgment seat of Christ, we will NOT be judged for SIN, but we will be judged for SERVICE.

Our sins were ALL judged on the cross when Jesus took our sins upon Himself and the judgment of God fell upon Him. Our sins have all been washed away, that is our past, present and future sins.

There are two judgements that must not be confused. It will be the judgment of ALL the unsaved. This will take place at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

*¹² And I saw **the dead**, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Then there is the believer's judgment that will take place after the Rapture.

2 Corinthians 5:10

*¹⁰ For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

*¹⁴ **If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.***

¹⁵ *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Knowing that I will one day stand before the Lord to give an account for service, I then need to be concerned about me and not about whether someone is eating certain food or if they are not keeping certain days as the Jews would keep the Sabbath.

The Apostle Paul had faced many judgments in his life as he served the Lord but there was only one judgment that really concerned him and that was the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:9

⁹ *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

The phrase "*may be accepted of him*" means "*that we may be found to be well pleasing to Him*".

Philippians 3:8

⁸ *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

The phrase, "*that I may win Christ*" means "*that I might win Christ's approval in the way that I have served*".

Conclusion:

As we close tonight, I want us to notice something in several of these verses.

Notice Romans 14:10-12

We are told, "WE SHALL ALL", "EVERY TONGUE", "EVERY ONE OF US". These statements tell us there is coming a time when we will personally be held accountable before our Lord. Let us, therefore, focus upon our own lives instead of trying to be Lord over the lives of fellow believers.